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his evenings in port taverns and his nights with sailors' brides. The Comintern was not at all pleased with his loose way of living and ordered him to marry a Norwegian comrade, Ragnhild Wiik, a pretty and clever girl. Both transferred their activities to Oslo.

Wollweber became the chief of an international organization of saboteurs, whose chain of sabotage acts and explosions on ships of all nations shocked the entire world in the mid-thirties. He was arrested in Sweden. Aleksandra Kollontay, Soviet Ambassador to Stockholm, demanded Wollweber's deportation, accusing him of embezzling funds of the USSR. The Swedish government was thus forced to turn him over to the USSR -- a successful maneuver to save Wollweber.

Wollweber showed up in the East Zone of Germany in mid-April 1946. Fitzner, chief of the Central Administration for Transportation of the East Zone, introduced him to his collaborators as "the sailor Wollweber" and made no mention of any of the feats credited to him; perhaps he was not aware of them. At first, the officials of the Central Administration were amused by Wollweber's comical fat figure. However, the amusement stopped as soon as Wollweber went into action. He established a seamen's school in Klein-Machnow near Berlin. After satisfactory completion of this school, the student was eligible to attend the school at Ladebow near Greifswald. While the subjects at the Klein-Machnow school were Marxism and similar matters, the Ladebow school had more concrete subjects. Wollweber's former staff of saboteurs was apprehended, even his wife Ragnhild was executed. But they were replaced by Ladebow trainees. The numerous sabotage acts on Western warships and commercial vessels can undoubtedly be credited to Wollweber and his Ladebow-trained agents.

Wollweber's new appointment is indeed alarming. It merges counterintelligence and active espionage and sabotage activities. Wollweber, the sailor of definitely proletarian origin, and not Ulbricht, will be the most important man in the German Democratic Republic.

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